



**THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

## **DPBHS UPDATES**

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**Behavioral Health Consortium Meeting**

**April 19, 2022**

## PBHS Services

### Prevention

- Delivered via contracts with community-based organizations
- Serves any interested child/family; priority for high-risk communities
- Target: Preventing violence, suicide and substance use

### Early Intervention

- Delivered in elementary school and childcare settings via staff and contracts
- Serves families self-referred and by administrators
- Target: Stabilizing functioning to prevent need for treatment

### Treatment

- Delivered in community and residential settings via staff and contracts
- Crisis service for all children and families; remainder for children who are uninsured and Medicaid covered
- Target: Treating and stabilizing behavioral health conditions





# COVID'S IMPACT

COVID has increased children's exposure to ACEs & trauma

- Specific events (e.g., traumatic loss, medical trauma, racial trauma, economic instability, violence exposure) as well as social isolation

Over the past two year, nationally there have been

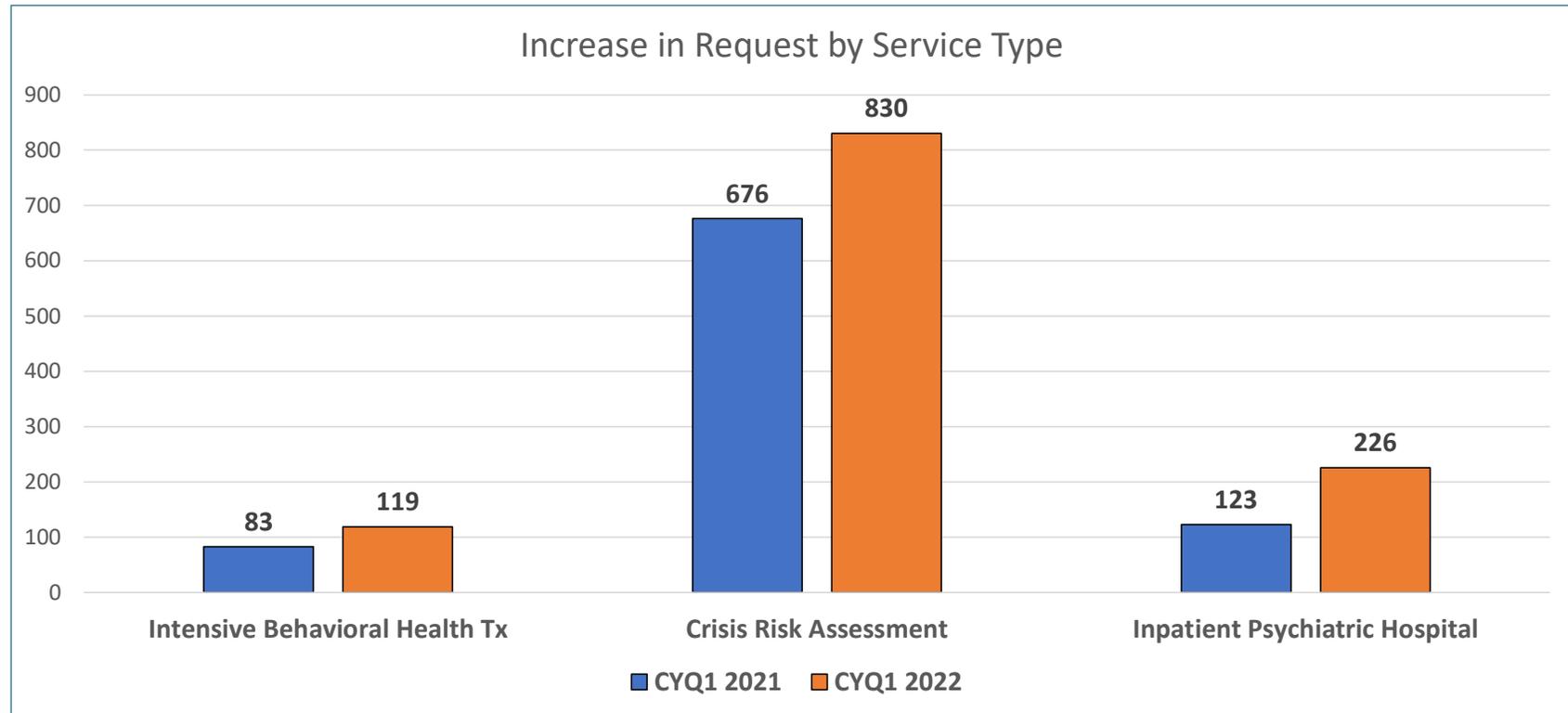
- Elevations in anxiety, depression and PTSD\*
  - Rates of depression (25%) and anxiety (20%) for children are double pre-pandemic estimates
- Increased visits to the ED including visits for suicidal self-injury
  - In 2020 mental health related visits for children aged 5–11 and 12–17 years increased about 24%. and 31% compared to 2019
  - 22% increase in 2020 and 39% increase in 2021 for adolescent ED visit for suspected suicide attempts

\*JAMA Pediatr. 2021;175(11) Published online August 9, 2021.



# DPBHS DATA TRENDS

## Request for treatment services for children





# DPBHS RESPONSE-PREVENTION

## Summer 2021 Suicide Prevention Campaign

- More than 1.4 million impressions (which accounts for the number of times people saw the ad), 2,566 clicks and 114 post reactions.
- 62% of the clicks on display banner ads occurred on mobile devices

## ARPA proposal to broaden the suicide prevention social media campaign

- Add radio, print add, bus wrap, billboard as well as social media

2023 additional funds for gang violence prevention

Added new out of school time providers



# DPBHS RESPONSE- TREATMENT

## Expand current service array

- RFP to expand treatment service continuum
  - Received 16 proposals to date
- RFP for additional crisis beds
  - 4 beds located in Kent/Sussex

## Continuing to build access to effective, trauma informed treatment services

- Services offered in-person and via telehealth
- Expand evidence-based practices
- Ensure TIC principles in service delivery



# DPBHS RESPONSE-COLLABORATION

## Established Hospital Collaborative

- Includes representatives from the Medical Emergency Departments and Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals
- Developed protocol to reduce delays in youth transferring from ED to appropriate care
- Meets monthly

## Suicide Prevention Collaborative

- Partnering with NAMI DE, MHA in DE, Nemours Children's Health, AFSP, DOE, DGS
- 4 Part April webinar series for Education Administrators



## DPBHS GRANTS

DPBHS has 3 current federal grants plus collaboration with DOE

- DCPAP, SOC, CORE 2, DeIAWARE
- Submitted for the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant

DPBHS received additional COVID block grant funding

- *Activities in process*
  - Implement community navigators in targeted communities
  - Expand Respite
  - Expand Family Peer Support
  - Enhance MRSS



## DFS and YRS

DFS seeing increases in...

- Adolescents being referred for dependency
  - Highly aggressive
  - Legal involvement
  - Often have not engaged with community behavioral health treatment

YRS seeing increases in...

- Adolescents with higher levels of behavioral health symptoms
  - Significant increase in referrals for psychiatry services



# QUESTIONS?

